

Thomas Jefferson to George Washington, March 2, 1792, from the Works of Thomas Jefferson in Twelve Volumes. Federal Edition. Collected and Edited by Paul Leicester Ford.

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES D. S. MSS.

Mar. 2, 1792.

Th: Jefferson presents his respectful compliments to the President and returns him the letter of Gen. St. Clair. He finds nothing in it about which he has any doubt except the following passage. "Nor do I see from any information in my possession that your exertions were wanting for any *preparatory* measures *previous to the action*, nor in *the time of the action*."

Th: J. never had a statement of the matter himself from Genl. St. Clair in conversation, but he has heard from those who have, that it appears from his own account that he was so confident he should not meet an enemy, that he did not take sufficient precautions to be advised of one previous to the action, & his manner of conducting the action itself has been generally censured; if these criticisms be founded, the only question is whether the above expressions will be so understood as to be exposed to them.

Th: J. does not pretend to judge of the facts, and perhaps the expressions may bear another meaning.¹

¹ The above is verbatim, as nearly as I can recollect, the diction of a note I wrote to the President this morning, & I forgot to take a copy of it before it went out of my hands. But I

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think there will be found scarcely a word of difference, except perhaps in the quotation, the substance of which alone can be answered for. *T. J.*